

Message Text

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41

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6717

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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C O N F I D E N T A A L MOSCOW 1335

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: ROY MEDVEDEV ON SOVIET REJECTION OF TRADE BILL

1. INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE JANUARY 24 CARRIED
NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BY JAMES F. CLARITY (ASSUME
DEPT HAS TEXT) ON DISSIDENT HISTORIAN ROY MEDVEDEV'S
STATEMENT ASSAILING SENATOR JACKSON'S ROLE IN TRADE
LEGISLATION CONTROVERSY.

2. EMBASSY HAS SINCE RECEIVED FROM AMERICAN
CORRESPONDENT MEDVEDEV TEXT (COPY POUCHED TO EUR/SOV)
WHICH CONTAINS A FEW POINTS OF INTEREST NOT COVERED
IN CLARITY'S STORY.

3. MEDVEDEV REPORTS TWO REACTIONS TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S
DECISION WITHIN DISSIDENT CIRCLES: (A) FEAR ON THE
PART OF THOSE SET ON OR CONSIDERING LEAVING USSR; AND
(B) SATISFACTION ON THE PART OF THOSE WHO SEE
SOVIET ECONOMY IN SUCH STRAITS THAT BREAK IN RELATIONS
WITH WEST WOULD SPEED DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS,
STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRATIZATION, AND EXPLOSION OF SPIRITUAL
ENERGY OF SOVIET PEOPLE. HE HOPES THAT NEITHER FEARS OF FIRST
GROUP NOR DUBIOUS PROPHECIES OF SECOND WILL BE JUSTIFIED.

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4. ASSUMING THAT QUESTION OF AMERICAN AID IN DEVELOPING
SIBERIAN RESOURCES WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT TO SOVIET
LEADERSHIP THAN PROBLEM OF EMIGRATION, MEDVEDEV NOTES
DIFFICULTY IN RECONCILING U.S. PROJECT INDEPENDENCE
WITH BILLIONS IN CREDITS FOR EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION
OF SIBERIAN OIL AND GAS, SINCE CREDITS COULD BE REPAID ONLY
WITH THIS VERY OIL AND GAS. MEDVEDEV CONCLUDES THAT PEACE AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION CAN ONLY BE PRESERVED BY COMPROMISES
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTERESTS OF ALL COUNTRIES.
MATLOCK

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